



AFFIRMATION OF ELECTION

The Office Action includes a restriction requirement between what is referred to as Group I, claims 1 – 19, and Group II, claims 20 – 24. In response to a previous oral restriction requirement, Group I was provisionally elected for immediate prosecution. The election of Group I is hereby affirmed.

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Amend claim 10, without prejudice, as follows:

10. A package comprising:
- at least one sheet of flexible packaging material comprising
 - a substrate comprising at least one sheet of plastic material,
 - a cold-seal cohesive coating on an inner side of the substrate, and
 - an energy-cured coating comprising fixed slip agents on an outer side of the substrate;
- wherein said package has at least one seam formed by portions of said cold-seal cohesive coating cohering together.

Add the following new claims:

25. The packaging material of claim 1 further comprising reacted-in slip agents in the energy-cured coating.
26. The packaging material of claim 1, wherein the energy-cured coating comprises fixed slip agents.

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 26 are pending in the application. Claim 10 has been amended to recite that the energy-cured coating includes a fixed slip agent. Similar elements are recited in new claims 25 and 26. As discussed more fully below, this additional element further sets the invention apart from the references cited. No new matter has been added by the amendment.

The Office Action includes a rejection of independent claims 1 and 10 under 35 USC § 103(a). It is indicated that the Zhang and Kurth references, when combined, show each element of the independent claims. Specifically, Zhang is characterized as describing a cold-seal adhesive coated on a packaging film and Kurth as describing electron beam ("EB") cured binders for